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**TECHNICAL AID TO THE DISABLED (SA) INC.**

PO Box 540, Modbury, South Australia 5092

# NEWSLETTER

**No. 152 - AUTUMN**



**Happy New Year and welcome to our first edition of TADSA Newsletter for 2010**



*“Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.”*

~Sherrv Anderson

## SAILABILITY

**An international sailing program available for people with disabilities regardless of age or ability**

**TADSA volunteers and staff enjoy the hospitality of the Port Adelaide Sailing Club and Sailability volunteers**

*(See page 9)*



### TADSA's VISION

To be a leader in developing unique and innovative equipment for people with disabilities in South Australia

### TADSA's MISSION

To improve the lives of people with disabilities, the frail, the aged and those who care for or assist them through the development of unique and innovative equipment, using the skills of volunteers and staff.



**We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of this issue of our Newsletter by the Lions Club of Blackwood Inc.**

## TADSA INFORMATION



### Technical Aid to the Disabled (TADSA) Inc

is an Australia wide voluntary organization, with branches in every State. Technical members are people with skills in many fields, who give their time to helping people with disabilities and elderly people with practical problems for which no completely satisfactory commercial solution is available. This may require modifications to existing equipment, or the construction of new, specialised aids. Sometimes we can provide the means to overcome difficulties that had seemed insurmountable.

#### Technical Aid to the Disabled (SA) Inc.

is based at The Royal Society for the Blind, Gilles Plains, on site with The Royal Society for the Blind, Disability Services SA, Disability Services SA-ILC, and Adult Therapy Solutions. Our members work, where necessary, in close cooperation with health professionals. If you have a problem for us to solve, or if you know someone who has, contact us at the TADSA office. No referral is necessary; cost is normally only that of materials used, service charge and expenses actually incurred (usually small).

#### Volunteers Needed -

If you have skills such as mechanical, carpentry, electrical or electronic fields, good handyman etc, you might like to use some spare time on this challenging and most rewarding work. TADSA is always seeking more volunteers. If you would like to know more about how you could be part of our team, please telephone either the Project or Office Manager on 08) 8261 2922.

#### Home Phone Numbers for Urgent TADSA Business –

Chairman – Richard Jackson 08) 8294 8591 or 0412 895826 (mob)  
Secretary – Tony Scully 70000022 (H)  
Office Manager – Julie Peak 0411 240118 (mob)



### Freedom Wheels Program

is a national program involving all state TADs working with Amway One By One Foundation to develop a range of standard add-ons that fit on a range of standard bikes. This now means that an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist can “prescribe” the attachments needed to correctly support a child, and a bike set up by TAD technical volunteers to suit is delivered to the child. For further information contact the TADSA Freedom Wheels Program Manager, Tony Scully, at the TADSA office.

#### Page-Turner Loan Program –

TADSA has 12 mechanical page-turners for loan to people with severe disabilities. A small fee for this loan is requested. Each machine has been modified to allow connecting the most suitable control device. Contact Julie in the office for further information.

#### Electric Wheelchairs Program –

Rugged terrain wheelchairs – TADSA has two electric wheelchairs available for loan to people with severe disabilities living in rugged terrain.

Fold up electric wheelchair – This chair has been added recently to our loan pool of equipment and is available to anyone seeking short term loan of a chair to be used in standard conditions. It can easily be transported in the back of a car.

For further information, contact Julie in the Office.

Supported by



**Government of South Australia**

Department for Families  
and Communities



## NEW TADSA LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Two technical members, Terry Hall and Steve Miller each received Life Membership and were presented with their certificates at the Annual Christmas Party. This is in recognition of at least 10 years continual service to our Organisation.

### Life Member Profile - by Terry Hall

*"The first 25 years on my life was spent in the beautiful Cotswold countryside, about 160km west of London and 16km from Gloucester. After leaving school I served a 5 year apprenticeship in fitting and machining/drafting with a medium sized general engineering firm producing mainly hydraulic presses, injection moulding machines and chainsaws. During my apprenticeship I studied part-time and gained an HNC in mechanical engineering (equivalent to the current tafe advanced diploma).*

*In 1967 I joined the UK electricity authority at a research lab in the structural mechanics section working on the stress analysis of turbine components and reactor pressure vessels. It was here that I was first introduced to these strange new slide rules known as computers! In 1971, with my better half and a 3 year old daughter, we migrated to Adelaide and went back to the drawing board working with Wilkins Servis drafting tooling for the production of washing machines components.*

*In 1973 I joined what has now become tafe as a technical officer in the school of mechanical engineering when tafe started running the technicians certificate. It was there that I first met John Cappel (TADSA foundation member) who was then the Senior Lecturer in charge of the technician program. Around 1978 John Cappel, Alan Short (original TADSA foundation member/Projects Co-ordinator) and Terry Cody (TADSA foundation member) collaborated in the formation of TAD in SA. John trolled through the tafe campuses recruiting volunteers and I duly attended the inaugural meeting at the Panorama campus and subsequently joined TADSA.*

*In 1983 I transferred to the Panorama campus to establish a materials testing laboratory when they started running a mechanical engineering diploma course. I started teaching basic computing around 1987 on a part time basis – tafe was starting to move into the computer world. I was one of the few people around who had any experience with computers. As computers started to encroach on more and more aspects of engineering, I finally combined my computing and drafting backgrounds and started teaching CAD.*

*In 1996 when the technical officer positions in tafe were "outsourced" I started a small (one man) part-time business producing CAD drawings for clients in the plumbing and hydraulics industry and also completed the transition from technical officer to teaching full time.*

*I currently run the CAD program at the Panorama campus where we teach 2D CAD using AutoCAD and 3D solid modelling using Inventor. When not working I like to go bushwalking, mainly in the Flinders and Gammon ranges and have a long standing interest in the natural world and wildlife which I combine with an interest in photography. With retirement looming I have also resurrected an interest in woodworking and model making."*

*Our next newsletter will feature Steve Miller's profile- Ed*

### **New TADSA Website – Early March**

Our new website has been in the pipeline for quite a while, but the time has almost arrived for the launch – keep an eye out for it. We are also seeking new photos for the site, so keep this in mind when you are working on a project. Ideally, a nice photo with the client, technical volunteer and the device is ideal. Permission is needed however for photos of individuals, check with the Editor (Julie), Ian Beaton or Travis James if you are unsure of the protocol.



## FREEDOM WHEELS – TADSA – BY TONY SCULLY, (FREEDOM WHEELS SA CO-ORDINATOR)

*“In mid December my wife Jean and I took 3 bikes down to Mount Gambier. Thankfully facilities provided included a large room, enabling the children to ride around because the rain outside was horrendous. Another bike went to Hope Valley on Christmas Eve, we have since been told by his parents that he was well pleased with his surprise. In mid January a young lady at Tumby Bay received her new bike. We are now planing to hold another clinic very soon as we have 5 others who are interested in receiving a Freedom Wheels bike. This will be our first clinic that we are doing on our own with the help of the physios at Novita.”*

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



### GRINDER-KICKBACK

Incident summary – A contractor was grinding on a tack weld with a 7” grinder. The work being performed was approximately at eye level, so the contractor’s arms were in an extended position as he started the grinding job. Upon contact, the grinder kicked-back, causing the contractor to lose control of the grinder. The grinder struck the contractor (knocking off his welding hood and hard hat) and then fell to the ground. During the even, the grinding wheel grazed the contractor’s nose, resulting in a laceration to the right upper bridge area.

### Recommendations:

- ❖ Before beginning any task, ensure the proper body positioning for the work to be done and the potential force that will be exerted on the body once the work begins.
- ❖ Grinders and many other hand tools “kick-back” upon initial surface contact. This must be anticipated and planned for in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and guidelines.
- ❖ Analyze what could go wrong, ie, *“what if the grinder kicks-back? Will I be able to maintain control of it with my hands and arms in this extended position?”*

### **TADSA VOLUNTEERS – MARK THIS IN YOUR DIARY!**

#### **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 10<sup>TH</sup> – 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2010**

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer. Australian volunteers are essential to society, and many charities would struggle to survive without the support of their volunteers. Australian volunteers contribute more than 700 million hours of community service to so many areas of society, including community health care, heritage and arts, environment conservation, emergency services, education, social justice and sports.

#### **YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR “OPEN HOUSE”**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> (inclusive)**

**Please phone ahead if you would like to join us for morning/afternoon tea**

**TADSA would not be able to operate without our dedicated volunteers**

**To all our volunteers – “THANK YOU.”**

## Disability SA – Independent Living Centre

The Independent Living Centre's Mobile Unit Outreach Service is a free government service for people living in rural and remote South Australia. Visitors to the wheelchair-accessible caravan are able to discuss their individual needs with an experienced health professional (Occupational Therapist) and view and trial a wide range of equipment. Information sheets covering a large variety of topics are also available. Free individualized advice is provided on techniques and equipment to assist those living or caring for someone with a disability, injury or illness. Program for the next three months for the visiting Mobile Outreach Service includes –

<b>March</b>	Kangaroo Island	- Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	<b>Kingscote</b>
	Upper South East	- Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Meningie</b>
	Lower South East	- Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mount Gambier DIRC Disability &amp; Ageing Expo</b>
	Upper South East	- Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> & Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>(Lucindale) Field Days</b>
<b>April</b>	Upper South East	- Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bordertown Scooter Muster</b>
	Kapunda Farm Fair	- Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> & Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kapunda Farm Fair</b>
	Mid North	- Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Booleroo Centre/Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Jamestown</b>
<b>May</b>		Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Burra</b>
	Yorke Peninsula	-Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Yorketown</b> Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> <b>Maitland</b> Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> <b>Wallaroo</b>

Contact Independent Living Centre for further details on 1300 885886 or 8266 5260.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS NEWS

By Ian Beaton, TADSA Public Relations Officer

**Storpac** TADSA has obtained sponsorship from storage company **Storpac** at Holden Hill who have allocated space for us to store and assemble Freedom Wheels' bikes. Previously we have had to store assessment bikes, unassembled bikes and bike parts in our offices and bathrooms. The owner of **Storpac**, Liz Davies (see photograph), is a member of the Modbury Rotary Club and attended a talk I gave to that Club last year. The estimated value of this sponsorship is \$3,200. We thank Liz and all at Storpac for their valuable support.



Liz Davies of Storpac

**United Way SA** - TADSA applied to United Way for assistance with administration costs (i.e. rent, telephone, internet). It is unusual that a grant provider would give a grant for these costs as most grants are for new projects or programs. TADSA's application was successful and I attended (see photograph) a cheque presentation where TADSA received \$5,000. Thanks to United Way SA for this generous grant.

**Seeley International** - Following a mail out to some of South Australia's top companies, we are now receiving \$100 per month from Seeley International which manufactures air conditioners. We appreciate this support from Mr Frank Seeley AM, Chairman, Seeley International and his staff.

**Volunteer Support Fund** - TADSA applied to this SA Government fund for a new laptop and projector, which will be used for talks/presentations and for new volunteer inductions. We received \$1,800 toward this equipment.

**Talks** - If you or someone in your family is part of a service club or support group please keep TADSA in mind for speaking opportunities in 2010. We always welcome the opportunity to give a talk on the work of TADSA.

TADSA talks given (August – October 2009)

Paralowie Lions Club	McLaren Flat Lions Club
Rotary Club of Elizabeth	West Lakes Stroke Club

**PROJECTS ASSIGNED TO MEMBERS****1<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 - (tp = technical project ap = assessment by Project Manager)**

<b>Proj No.</b>	<b>ap/tp</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Technical Member/s</b>
2010-096	tp	Program CareAlert	
2010-097	tp	Emergency call system adaption	
2010-098	tp	Walker mods	
2010-099	tp	Vibrating alarm for deaf person	
2010-100	tp	Bowling frame mods	
2010-101	tp	Pommell for seat	
2010-102	tp	Drinking device	
2010-103	tp	Intercom repair	
2010-104	ap	Shower mods	
2010-105	ap	Pool ladder modification	
2010-106	tp	Cooking aids	
2010-107	ap	Shoes – device to help dressing	
2010-108	tp	Computer setup	
2010-109	ap	Fold up walker modification	
2010-110	ap	Chair modification	
2010-111	tp	Bar fridge installation	
2010-112	tp	Call bell modification	discontinued
2010-113		void	
2010-114	ap	Building new home advice	
2010-115	ap	Switch panel assessment	
2010-116	tp	Blue phone setup	
2010-117	tp	Car boot assistance	
2010-118	ap	Child seat carrier –	discontinued
2010-119	tp	Car hoist repair	
2010-120	tp	Golf sticks mods	
2010-121	tp	Chair mods	
2010-122	ap	Knee switch mount on wheelchair	
2010-123	tp	Knee switch mount on wheelchair	
2010-124	tp	Lounge chair modification	
2010-125	ap	Recliner chair modification	
2010-126	tp	Shower mods	
2010-127	tp	Shoes – device to help dressing	
2010-128	ap	Thoracic strap for bed	
2010-129	tp	Drinking device mods	
2010-130	tp	Walker mods	
2010-131	ap	Switch assessment	
2010-132	tp	Delay switch	
2010-133	tp	Crystal switch to door alarm	
2010-134	tp	Bathroom handles	
2010-135	tp	“T” bar spoon	
2010-136	ap	Wheelchair attach to scooter	
2010-137	tp	Walking device for scooter	
2010-138	tp	Chair Carrier Adaption	
2010-139	ap	Computer assessment	
2010-140	tp	Walker modification	
2010-141	tp	Lifter modification	
2010-142	tp	Soap holder	
2010-143	tp	Freedom Wheels – Book Carrier	
2010-144	tp	Flameless cigarette lighter	
2010-145	tp	Iron guard repair	
2010-146	tp	Wheelchair brakes – repair	
2010-147	tp	Crystal switch supply	
2010-148	ap	Scooter problems – advice	discontinued
2010-149	ap	Bed modification	
2010-150	tp	Kitchen chair modification	
2010-151	tp	Program Senior Pilot controller	
2010-152	ap	Home assessment	
2010-153	ap	Trolley	

2010-154	tp	Walker brakes
2010-154	tp	Call bell repair
2010-156	ap	Custom bedstick
2010-157	ap	Security camera
2010-158	tp	Drinking device
2010-159	tp	Spoon modification
2010-160	tp	Shelf under TV
2010-161	tp	Table platform
2010-162	tp	TV & remote setup
2010-163	tp	TV & remote setup

## How it was Done

*Please Note – Personal names have been altered to respect client's privacy*

**Project 2010-084 - Table Attached to Wheelchair**  
**Technical Member - Denis**

Sue lives in a supported home and spends most of her time in a wheelchair. Unfortunately she had an accident whilst in her chair, resulting in her smashing the attached wooden table.

Sue made two requests to TADSA, firstly that we make it like the last table and secondly, that it be painted purple. I think Dennis met her requirements.

*Photo taken by Denis*

**TOTAL DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION TIME: 13 hours**



**Project 2010-092 - Walker Modification**

**Technical Member - Denis**

Technical Member Dennis, who from this point will be called “Mr Walker”, AKA “the Phantom,” was called upon by TADSA to help solve a sticky problem.



Quite a number of walkers come into TADSA for modification and normally they are dealt with quite easily. However, occasionally Tony and I are stumped! So, the Phantom was called in to tackle the job.

This particular walker (no pun intended) needed the brake action reversed, i.e. pull to take the braking action off rather than to apply it. In typical fashion the Phantom worked in the Skull Cave and came up with another example of a wonderful piece of magic.

*Photo by The Phantom*

**TOTAL DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION TIME: 4.5 Hours**

**Project 2010-106 - Kitchen Utensils modification**

**Technical Member - Tony**

Carol has severe weakness in one of her hands and approached TADSA looking for help to cut up vegetables. She already had some utensils, but they were no longer doing the job she wanted. She had been to the Independent Living Centre and was subsequently referred on to TADSA. Assistant Project Manager Tony was allocated the job of modifying three items and making a fourth.



Tony modified three items and made a fourth. The round grater sits on a round plastic container but the base allowed it to slip across the bench top. By making the base bigger and adding suction caps Tony made the grater non-slip and gave it increased stability.

Tony added the spikes to the green cutting board, but rather than in the usual square or right angle formation he placed them diagonally thus allowing Carol to cut carrots and other vegetables at an angle.

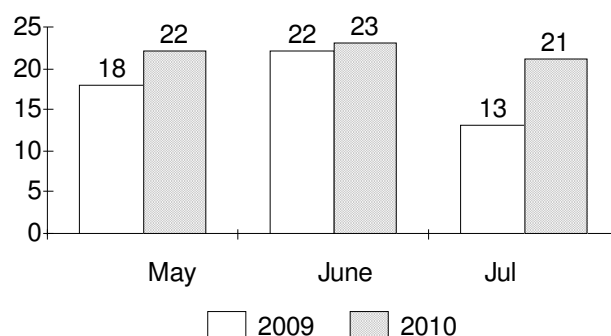
The white cutting board needed suction caps to anchor it to the bench top. The fourth item was a piece of "U" plastic. Tony added the two spikes and slotted the edges so Carol could finely cut carrots and the like.

*Photo taken by Tony*

### **TOTAL DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION TIME: 6 Hours**

**Reminder to all technical members** – *during and on completion of a project, please remember photos are an important part of our record keeping and public relations. We are always seeking more photos, especially those including the client and technical member, with the device. Please discuss with the office if you are not sure of the protocol involved in seeking permission from the client to use photos.* - Editor

### **Comparison Statistics Projects Allocated**



## THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

### *Low Vision Products – Part 2*

**Household Aids** – There are a variety of household aids that feature a computer-generated voice; such as talking calculators or kitchen scales that give the weight of food placed in its bowl. Talking clocks and talking watches tell the time audibly when a button is pressed. Some talking watches also have a vibrating alarm. A talking clock with thermometer is available that speaks the time and then the room temperature. Alternatively, there are watches with tactile surfaces and watches and clocks with large numbers. Talking timers usually combine a talking timer function with a talking clock function. The timer may count up or down.

A liquid level finder is a battery-powered device that indicates when liquid in a cup has reached a certain level. Once the liquid reaches the sensor, an auditory signal will sound. With a dual liquid level finder, a pulsating intermittent buzzer sounds when the liquid reaches the first level and a continuous buzzer sounds when it reaches the second level. The vibrating liquid level finder for people with vision and hearing loss vibrates against the side of the cup to indicate the level of the liquid.

**Telephones** – A range of big button telephones are available with large numbers on contrasting backgrounds. Cordless or fixed options are available.

**Money Identification** – The Cash Test Australia is a note guide that identifies the value of an Australian note. Coin holders can be used to identify \$1 and \$2 coins. *Part 3 in next newsletter*

*To contact the Low Vision Centre phone 8232 4777 or for more information visit the RSB website [www.rsb.org.au](http://www.rsb.org.au)*



### SAILABILITY – PORT ADELAIDE SAILING CLUB

In 1991 Sailability was introduced to Australia. There are now currently over fifty groups covering every State and Territory. Sailability activities cover a broad spectrum, ranging from recreation, therapeutic and competitive activities, from grass-root, entry level through to elite World Championships and Paralympic training.

The Sailability program at Port Adelaide Sailing Club is from October to February. Hoists are used on the pontoon to assist people in and out of the boats if

necessary. “Come and Try” sessions with trained sailing instructors are organised for people who would like to give it a go. Phone Margaret: 0409 678737 or John: 0417 813188 for further details.



*View from PASC – easy access for disabilities*



## CHRISTMAS THANK YOU PARTY



Our Christmas party to thank our volunteers and sponsors was held at the Port Adelaide Sailing Club at the end of last year. Our guests were treated to lunch, followed by a demonstration of Sailability and finally a sail on yachts from the Club.



*Past Project Manager,  
Roger Davis*



Our sincere thanks go to the Port Adelaide Sailing Club for the use of their facilities and for the Sailability demo. Special thanks also to the skippers/ volunteers from the Club who took our many of members out for a ride in their yachts. It was a beautiful day and one that will be well remembered. Thanks also to Helen Millard (PASC) for helping with catering.



*A personal memory for the editor of this newsletter is the look of fear on the passengers aboard the yacht "Matuki", as she motored out of the basin, skippered by their multi-skilled TADSA Office Manager! Thankfully, I did return with everyone still on board.*



*Oh what a feeling!*



## DISABILITY GUIDE

### *Retinitis Pigmentosa*

#### What is Retinitis Pigmentosa?

Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) is a genetic eye condition that causes the light-sensitive retina, located at the back of the eye, to degenerate slowly and progressively. The condition can vary greatly. While many people with RP retain limited vision throughout their lives, others will lose their sight completely.

#### What are the symptoms?

Generally, symptoms develop between the ages of 10 and 30. Some of the first signs may include the following:

- Difficulty seeing at night (night-blindness) or in dimly lit areas
- A narrowing field of vision
- Light and glare sensitivity

#### Who is at risk?

RP is a hereditary disease that occurs in people that have a family history of the condition. It often affects males more than females.

#### Can it be treated?

There is currently no standard treatment or therapy for RP. However, scientists have isolated several genes responsible for the disease. Once RP is discovered, patients and their families are encouraged to seek genetic counselling.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO TADSA?

Simply fill out the form below and return to:  
**Technical Aid to the Disabled (SA) Inc.**  
**PO Box 540, Modbury SA 5092**

Please send me more information and membership application. I am interested in joining as a:

Technical Member       Individual Member       Organisational Member

#### Or

I would like to make a donation of \$ .....

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

**Make your donation dollars count and help us make an impact on the lives of people with disabilities by making a donation today. For more information or to donate online please visit our website [www.tadsa.org.au](http://www.tadsa.org.au)**